



SALT LAKE AREA OFFICE
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Midvale, Utah 84047
Phone: (801) 566-5599

Mr. Mark Wayment
White Oak Mining & Construction Co., Inc.
Scofield Route
Helper, Utah 84526

April 8, 1997

Re: 1996 Pond Certification

Dear Mr. Wayment:

On August 21, 1996 a site investigation and Pond Certification was performed by Hansen, Allen & Luce, Inc. for Sediment Ponds 001A, 002A, 003A, and 004A which are located within the White Oak permit boundary. The purpose of our site investigation was to evaluate the current condition of each of the four existing sediment ponds in terms of embankment and/or channel erosion, integrity of the pond outlets and emergency spillways, and their overall hydraulic condition. We provide the following comments regarding our field observation:

POND 001A

Observations

Pond 001A was not discharging at the time of our observation, as the water level within the pond was approximately 9-feet below the intake to the pond outlet pipes. A visual observation was conducted on both the interior and exterior portions of the pond. One animal burrow was identified near the inside top of the southwest corner of the pond. It appears that this burrow is no longer actively being used. In addition to this burrow, 10 animal burrows were located along the north and west exterior slopes of the pond. Observation of the animal burrows was difficult due to heavy vegetative cover on the exterior and interior side slopes of the pond. As the pond is mostly excavated, it is anticipated that the majority of the burrows would not adversely affect pond performance. However, it is recommended that the mine conduct periodic inspections to monitor the number of, and condition of burrows. Based upon tracks observed at the pond, it is apparent that the pond is also used by livestock and wildlife as a source of water. This use of the pond does not appear to have adversely affected pond performance.

No inflow into Pond 001A was observed at the time of our visit. Coal fines have accumulated near the inlet to the pond. It is assumed that these fines have washed into the pond during moderate regional storms. It is our understanding that White Oak plans to survey the interior of Pond 001A to determine the storage capacity of the pond. Eutrophic conditions were also observed within the pond water, with a moderate to heavy algal bloom present.

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Photo #26 View across North Exterior Embankment
Photo #27 View South of Erosion Channel Near Outfall of Bypass Culvert Outfall
Photo #28 View South of Erosion Channel Near Outfall of Bypass Culvert Outfall
Photo #29 View Looking Upstream at Emergency Spillway Channel

Recommendations

It is recommended that the animal burrow located in the north embankment slope be filled to protect against "piping", and that periodic inspections be performed to monitor animal burrowing activity. It is also recommended that the small erosion channel on the exterior slope be repaired and monitored.

In general, our evaluation of the condition of the four sediment ponds indicates that they are in relatively good condition. Although specific recommendations are noted above, no conditions were identified at this time which would suggest that the ponds are incapable of performing as intended. However, in order to minimize future adverse effects, it is our recommendation that White Oak proceed with the minor repairs which include filling of animal burrows and the repair of erosion channels on each of the four ponds. In addition, White Oak should proceed with their plans to verify the volume capacity of each of the ponds (with the exception of Pond 3, as noted above) and remove sediment as required.

We appreciate the opportunity of working with you on this important project. Please call if you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

HANSEN, ALLEN & LUCE, INC


Paul G. Hansen, P.E.
Associate

